(ग) इस संबंध में राज्य सरकारों द्वारा दिये गये सुझावों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस प्रणाली को संचालित करने वाले अधिकांश सहकारी उपभोक्ता-भंडारों में वास्तविक उपभोक्ताओं की कोई भागीदारी नहीं है ?

**नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री ए. के. एन्टनी)**:— (क) से (घ) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की परिवीक्षा में उपभोक्ताओं की कारगर भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को सलाह दी है कि वे राज्य, जिला, ब्लाक और उचित दर स्तर पर उपभोक्ताओं की सतर्कता/परामर्शदात्री समितियां गठित करें। उनसे यह भी अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे इन समितियों में महिलाओं, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं, प्रमुख नागरिकों, राशन कार्ड धारियों और स्वैच्छिक संगठनों को पर्याप्त प्रतिनिधित्व दें। संपुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत आने वाले क्षेत्रों में सतर्कता/उचित दर दुकान स्तर की सतर्कता समितियां गठित करने पर विशेष बल दिया गया है। राज्य सरकारें/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के कार्यान्वयन के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार संपुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली ब्लाकों में अधिकांश उचित दर दुकानों के लिए ऐसी समितियां गठित कर ली गई हैं। उपभोक्ता भंडार चलाने वाली सहकारी समितियों का प्रबंधन आमतौर पर ऐसी संस्थाओं द्वारा किया जाता है, जिनमें उपभोक्ता हितों का प्रतिनिधित्व रहता है।

### *Import of Natural Rubber*

*189. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to permit the import of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantity and value of rubber proposed to be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The estimated production and consumption of natural rubber during 1993-94 is 4,40,000 tonnes and 4,51,000 tonnes respectively. In order to meet the demand-supply gap, it has been decided to allow the rubber consuming industry to import 10,000 Metric Tonnes of natural rubber during the lean production period of 1993-94. The amount of foreign exchange involved in this import will depend on the price of natural rubber in the international market on the date of contract for purchase.

### Curb on Import of Aromatic Plants

*190. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item published in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi dated the 27th April, 1993 captioned "Curbs on import of aromatic plants hit herbal medicines";

(b) whether Government have estimated the annual expenditure incurred by importers of herbs for the last three years with values of exports made by them or medicine manufacturers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992—97 (Revised Edition : March 1993), the "crude drugs required for making Ayurvedic and Unani medicines" continue to be freely importable. However, Government have notified on 31-3-1993 a list of such "crude drugs" which can be imported, without a licence, by the manufacturers of such medicines subject to Actual User condition. The Actual User condition has

been imported with a view to prevent misutilisation of imported "crude drugs" for the manufacture of consumer items other than Ayurvedic and Unani medicines.

No separate statistics relating to export and import of herbs are maintained.

**Export of Pepper**

*191. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of pepper exported during the last three years, yearwise and country-wise;

(b) what has been the surplus left in the country after the export, each year;

(c) what had been the internal consumption of pepper during this period, each year;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a steep fall in the prices of pepper in the market;

(e) whether Government propose to procure pepper in order to maintain the price in the market and export them; and

(f) if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken to sustain a reasonable price for pepper in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure.
[*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annexure No. 15]

(b) and (c) The production of pepper during the last three years has been in the range of 48,000-55,000 MTs, whereas exports have been in the range of 26,000 MTs to 30,000 MTs. It can be safely presumed that the surplus left has been the internal consumption.

(d) The wholesale prices of black pepper have shown a declining and fluctuating trend as compared to the prices in the previous years

(e) Ministry of Agriculture has approved a scheme for market intervention for black pepper for implementation in Kerala through designated Central and State Agencies.

(f) Does not arise.

**Steps to boost Exports**

*192. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports have been showing a sluggish growth;

(b) whether there is a need to launch a vigorous drive for exploring new markets for exports;

(c) whether the involvement of Indian Missions abroad in country's export efforts are also inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :

(a) Exports during April-February, 1992-93 the latest period for which such data is available, have registered a growth of 2.81 per cent in US dollar terms, over the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Steps taken to develop new markets include provision of assistance for market survey, commodity research, participation in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions abroad. Besides continuing efforts to boost exports to General Currency Area countries, steps are being taken to bring about a revival of exports